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Laura Bush highlights USAID contribution to health and education in Senegal

First lady Laura Bush drew international media attention to key health and education activities supported by USAID at the onset of a five-day trip to Senegal, Mozambique, Zambia and Mali.

Accompanied by Senegal's First Lady, Viviane Wade, and their daughters, Mrs. Bush on June 26 visited the Ambulatory Treatment Center, an outpatient facility for people living with HIV/AIDS at Fann Hospital in the capital, Dakar.

Part of USAID's support to the Center is channeled through the nongovernmental organization Development in Gardening (DIG) to establish the first outpatient garden in Senegal. The garden has significant impact on patient nutritional status, social and economic livelihood and general sense of well-being.

"These gardens serve as a great role model, a great example for other hospitals or other communities across Africa to improve gardens as part of their treatment," said Mrs. Bush after picking some vegetables with her daughter, Jenna.

In presenting more than 2,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets to Fann patients and representatives of local associations of people living with HIV/AIDS, she also drew attention to the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), a USAID-led activity which is providing \$16.7 million this year alone to prevent and treat malaria.

USAID began working with the Ambulatory Treatment Center at Fann Hospital in 2002 through its implementing partner, Family Health International (FHI). This partnership has supported the Center, through financial and technical assistance, as it broadened the package of comprehensive care services to introduce various nutritional and psychosocial activities, while maintaining high quality medical care.

USAID also provides nutritional food supplements through its Food for Peace program. Since 2005, patients at the Center have received 27.5 pounds of lentils and fortified flour



Mrs. Laura Bush meets scholarship recipients during a visit to HLM Grand Medine Primary School on June 26 in Dakar, Senegal. President Bush's Africa Education Initiative is working to provide 550,000 scholarships to girls throughout Africa by 2010. Pictured are, from left: Khady Diome, 15, of Diokhane, Senegal; Fatou Djiby, 15, of Diakhao, Senegal; Christine Ndiaye, 14, of Diakhao, Senegal; Yamama Diop, 15, of Maroneme, Senegal; and Nango Dang, 16, of Thicky Serere, Senegal. White House photo by Shealah Craighead

and four liters of fortified oil every two months. In 2007, over 2,850 patients are registered and regularly use the facility and its resources.

Mrs. Bush also visited HLM Grand Medine Primary School where she highlighted the U.S. assistance through the Africa Education Initiative (AEI). Established in 2002, AEI provides scholarships to African girls and will have trained more than 900,000 African teachers by the end of the decade. She noted that in its first four years, the initiative, supported by USAID, has trained nearly 4,000 teachers in Senegal and has provided Ambassador's Scholarships for nearly 1,300 Senegalese girls.

AEI has also partnered with six American universities to produce and print primary school textbooks. AEI has supplied nearly 500,000 books for children in Senegal's 6,000 primary schools so far. Senegal's partner in creating the textbooks is Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina. "Many of these books were first tested here at the Grand Medine School," said Mrs. Bush. The First Lady announced that AEI will deliver another 800,000 textbooks by the end of 2007.

Senegal's Education Minister Mustapha Sourang noted American assistance to middle school education in the country, which has already seen the construction of 30 rural schools with 20 more to be built by early 2008. "The U.S. involvement in Senegal, as witnessed by [USAID's] Middle School Program, has created popular enthusiasm, which shows that objectives are being reached in areas reputed hostile to girls' schooling, and to formal education in general."



Mrs. Laura Bush at the Fann Hospital garden.



U.S. Ambassador Janice L. Jacobs, left, presents Yande Sane a long-lasting, insecticide-treated bednet to protect her and her 16-month-old son, Moutar Camara, from getting malaria. In their home in Pikine. Photo by Richard Nyberg, USAID/Senegal.

PMI: USAID distributes bednets, launches indoor spraying drive

The President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) activities are in full swing in Senegal with the recent launch of indoor residual spraying campaigns in the districts of Nioro, Richard Toll and Vélingara and the distribution of nearly 200,000 bednets to residents in districts near the capital, Dakar. USAID's partners trained 955 health educators to inform the local populations about spraying activities and recruited 275 spray operators and team leaders. To date, more than 66,000 homes have been sprayed, protecting more than 600,000 people. Earlier this year 97,200 mosquito nets were re-treated with insecticide using U.S. Government funding. And USAID's bednet voucher system for pregnant women and children under five expanded from 20 health facilities in six districts to 184 health facilities in 24 districts, covering five of Senegal's 11 regions.



The winners in USAID/Senegal's first-ever children's art contest to mark Black History Month include Mara Clemons from the 4-7 age group; Mame Benita Barry from the 8-12 age group; and Aissatou Badiane and Michaela Munyuzangabo from the 13-17 age group. Aby Barry also received an honorable mention in the 13-17 age group. Photo by Mamadou Niass, USAID/Senegal.

Senegal Mission Director, Kevin Mullally, sworn in

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has sworn in Kevin Mullally as its new Mission Director for Senegal. Acting Deputy Administrator James Kunder administered the oath of office.



USAID/Senegal Mission Director, Kevin Mullally, at his swearing-in ceremony in Washington.

As Mission Director for Senegal, Mullally will work to improve access to education and health care for the people of Senegal. He will also play an important role in helping to create jobs and strengthen democracy within the country. Senegal participates in the Africa Education Initiative, the President's Malaria Initiative, and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). In addition, Senegal is a key American ally in the fight against terrorism and is one of the nine West and North African countries participating in the Trans-Sahara Counter-Terrorism Partnership.

Mullally began his career with USAID in 1982 as natural resources officer and project manager of a forestry development project in Burkina Faso. Since that time, he has worked in Niger, Haiti, Bangladesh, Mali, and Ethiopia, and has managed programs in agriculture, education, health, and democracy and governance. From 2002 to 2005, he served as Deputy Mission Director in Mali, and his most recent post was as Mission Director in Rwanda.

Prior to joining USAID, Mullally was a Forester and the Southern Area Nursery Manager for the Nevada Division of Forestry in the U.S. He also worked as a contractor with USAID/Haiti as a natural resources specialist. In addition, Mullally served as a Peace Corps forestry volunteer in Chad and Niger. He was raised in Liberty, New York and graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University and the University of Texas at Dallas. He is married to Rosemary Mullally, and they have two children, Brian and Jade.

USAID trains national journalists in economic, business reporting

USAID/Senegal's Economic Growth Program has launched a series of training sessions with the Association of Economic Journalists in Senegal (COJES) to identify key issues for future media coverage that will help Senegal remove obstacles to improved trade and investment in the West African country. Through this training, the journalists will examine the government's accelerated economic growth strategy in depth and discuss newsgathering and reporting techniques that will bring greater prominence to economic issues in the national media and help spark public debate leading to economic reforms.

Read more about USAID/Senegal: senegal.usaid.gov